

Amendments to the Specification

(1) At page 1, line ⁶~~8~~, please change "TECHNICAL FIELD" to --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

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(2) At page 1, line 17, please delete "BACKGROUND ART".

(3) Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 with the following amended paragraph.

--A holding device for adjusting the position of an optical element through automatic control has been disclosed (refer to patent publication 1). The holding device includes an inner ring for holding the peripheral edge of a ~~movable~~ lens, and an outer ring arranged outside the inner ring connected to the inner ring. The outer ring includes an actuator. Displacement of the actuator is transmitted to the inner ring by a displacement enlargement mechanism so as to displace the ~~movable~~ lens. A sensor is attached to the outer ring to monitor the position of the ~~movable~~ lens. A barrel including the holding device is relatively compact.--

(4) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 35, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The space surrounded by the jacket accommodates a signal communication coated cable, which is connected to the sensor, and a power feeding coated cable, which is connected to the actuator. The coated cables may generate a subtle amount of chemical pollutants (outgas), such as organic substances. The space surrounded by the jacket is connected to the inner space of the barrel through the gap described above. The subtle amount of chemical pollutants generated by the coated cables may flow from the space surrounded by the jacket into the inner space of the barrel through the gap described above, and may absorb the exposure light or ~~for the lenses~~ cause loss of transparency of the lenses accommodated in the barrel.--